financial support as well as support for cluster based development, latest technologies, quality upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial and management development and other support measures. Further, Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which has become operative from 2nd October 2006 to provide a dedicated statutory framework to facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness. Measures taken by the Government from time to time for the promotion and development of MSEs and to enhance their competitiveness have helped them to compete in the global as well as the domestic market, as is evident from their growth in terms of number of units, and contribution to national production, exports, employment generation, etc.

Hazardous chemicals used in small industries

†1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTEPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the hazardous chemicals used in small industries;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to lay down any safety norms for companies using chemicals so that workers life could be protected and they may work without fear; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) For controlling the use of hazardous chemicals, including that by industry, the Government of India has notified the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and Chemical Accident (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996. Under these rules, industries are required, *interalia*, to take the following measures to avoid chemical accidents:

- Preparation of on-sight and off-sight emergency planning;
- Preparation of safety reports and conduct safety audits;
- Prescribe notification on site handling hazardous chemical;
- Report major accidents;
- Preparation of Material, Safety Data Sheet for hazardous chemicals;
- Constitution of Crisis Groups – Central, State, District and Local Level Crisis Groups.

Further, industries are required to provide necessary safety and health measures for the workers under the Factories Act.

Effect of global recession on MSMEs

1364. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi